

Digestive Diseases Statistics for the United States

National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse



Glossary

Data for digestive diseases as a group and for specific diseases are provided in various categories. For some diseases, data do not exist in all categories.

Following are definitions used for the categories in this fact sheet:

Ambulatory care visits: The number of specific disease-related visits made annually to office-based health care providers, hospital outpatient clinics, and emergency departments.

Hospitalizations: The number of hospitalizations annually for a specific disease.

Incidence: The number of new cases annually of a specific disease.

Mortality: The number of deaths resulting annually from a specific disease listed as the underlying or primary cause.

Prescriptions: The number of prescriptions written annually for medications to treat a specific disease.

Prevalence: The number of people affected by a specific disease or diseases.

Procedures: The number of specific disease-related diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical procedures performed annually in a hospital or an outpatient setting.

All Digestive Diseases

Prevalence: 60 to 70 million people affected by all digestive diseases¹

Ambulatory care visits: 48.3 million (2010)²⁻⁴

Hospitalizations: 21.7 million (2010)⁵

Mortality: 245,921 deaths (2009)⁶

Diagnostic and therapeutic inpatient procedures: 5.4 million—12 percent of all inpatient procedures (2007)⁷

Ambulatory surgical procedures: 20.4 million—20 percent of all “write-in” surgical procedures (2010)²

Costs: \$141.8 billion (2004)⁸
\$97.8 billion, direct medical costs (2004)⁸
\$44 billion, indirect costs—for example, disability and mortality (2004)⁸

Specific Diseases

Abdominal Wall Hernia

Ambulatory care visits: 3.6 million (2009)⁶

Surgical procedures: 526,000 (2006)⁹
(inguinal hernia only)

Hospitalizations: 380,000 (2010)⁵

Mortality: 1,322 deaths (2010)¹⁰

Prescriptions: 3.7 million (2004)⁸

Chronic Constipation

Prevalence: 63 million people (2000)¹¹

Ambulatory care visits: 4.0 million (2009)⁶

Hospitalizations: 1.1 million (2010)⁵

Mortality: 132 deaths (2010)¹⁰

Prescriptions: 5.3 million (2004)⁸

Diverticular Disease

Prevalence: 2.2 million people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 2.7 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 814,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 2,889 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 2.8 million (2004)⁸

Gallstones

Prevalence: 20 million people (2004)¹³
Ambulatory care visits: 2.2 million (2006–2007)¹⁴ (includes all disorders of the gallbladder and biliary tract)
Surgical procedures: 503,000 (2006)⁹ (laparoscopic cholecystectomies only)
Hospitalizations: 675,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 994 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 1.65 million (2004)⁸

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

Prevalence: Reflux symptoms at least weekly: 20 percent of the population (2004)¹⁵
Ambulatory care visits: 8.9 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 4.7 million (2010)⁵
Mortality: 1,653 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 64.6 million (2004)⁸

Gastrointestinal Infections

Prevalence: Nonfoodborne gastroenteritis: 135 million people (1998)¹²; foodborne illness: 76 million people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 2.3 million (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 487,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 11,022 deaths (2011)¹⁶
Prescriptions: 938,000 (2004)⁸

Hemorrhoids

Prevalence: 75 percent of people older than 45 (2006)¹⁷
Ambulatory care visits: 1.1 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 266,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 20 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 2 million (2004)⁸

Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Ambulatory care visits: 1.9 million (2009)⁶

Crohn's Disease

Prevalence: 359,000 people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 1.1 million (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 187,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 611 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 1.8 million (2004)⁸

Ulcerative Colitis

Prevalence: 619,000 people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 716,000 (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 107,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 305 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 2.1 million (2004)⁸

Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Prevalence: 15.3 million people (1998)¹²
Ambulatory care visits: 1.6 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 280,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 21 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 5.9 million (2004)⁸

Liver Disease

Prevalence: 3.0 million people (2011)¹⁸
Ambulatory care visits: 635,000 (2009)⁶ (cirrhosis only)
Procedures: 6,342 (2011)¹⁹ (liver transplants)
Hospitalizations: 1.2 million (2010)⁵
Mortality: 42,923 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 731,000 (2004)⁸

Pancreatitis

Prevalence: 1.1 million people (1998)¹²
Incidence: Acute: 17 cases per 100,000 people (2003)²⁰; chronic: 8.2 cases per 100,000 people (1981)²¹
Ambulatory care visits: 881,000 (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 553,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 3,413 deaths (2010)¹⁰
Prescriptions: 766,000 (2004)⁸

Peptic Ulcer Disease

Prevalence: 15.5 million people (2011)¹⁸
Ambulatory care visits: 669,000 (2006–2007)¹⁴
Hospitalizations: 358,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 2,981 deaths (2011)¹⁶
Prescriptions: 5 million (2004)⁸

Viral Hepatitis

Hepatitis A

Prevalence of chronic infection: None (2007)²²
Incidence: 1,670 new acute clinical cases (2010)²²
Ambulatory care visits: Infrequent (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 10,000 (2004)⁸
Mortality: 29 deaths (2010)¹⁰

Hepatitis B

Prevalence of chronic infection: 800,000 to 1.4 million people (2007)²²
Incidence: 3,350 new acute clinical cases (2010)²²
Ambulatory care visits: 729,000 (2004)⁸
Hospitalizations: 61,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 588 deaths (2010)¹⁰

Hepatitis C

Prevalence of chronic infection: 2.7 to 3.9 million people (2007)²²
Incidence: 850 new acute clinical cases (2010)²²
Ambulatory care visits: 1.2 million (2009)⁶
Hospitalizations: 419,000 (2010)⁵
Mortality: 6,844 deaths (2010)¹⁰

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Acknowledgments

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Hope through Research

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases' (NIDDK's) Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition supports basic and clinical research into digestive diseases.

Clinical trials are research studies involving people. Clinical trials look at safe and effective new ways to prevent, detect, or treat disease. Researchers also use clinical trials to look at other aspects of care, such as improving the quality of life for people with chronic illnesses. To learn more about clinical trials, why they matter, and how to participate, visit the NIH Clinical Research Trials and You website at www.nih.gov/health/clinicaltrials. For information about current studies, visit www.ClinicalTrials.gov.

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